

Appl. No. : 10/036,150
Filed : December 26, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-21. (Cancelled).

22. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid having at least ~~80%~~95% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45;
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~the extracellular domain~~ amino acids 77-310 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, ~~wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310;~~
- (d) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44;
- (e) the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44; or
- (f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966; and

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that has the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

23. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 22 having at least ~~85%~~96% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45;
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~the extracellular domain~~ amino acids 77-310 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, ~~wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310;~~
- (d) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44;
- (e) the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44; or
- (f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966; and

Appl. No. : 10/036,150
Filed : December 26, 2001

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that has the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

24. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 22 having at least ~~90%~~97% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45;
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~the extracellular domain~~ amino acids 77-310 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, ~~wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310;~~
- (d) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44;
- (e) the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44; or
- (f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966; and

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that has the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

25. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 22 having at least ~~95%~~98% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45;
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~the extracellular domain~~ amino acids 77-310 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, ~~wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310;~~
- (d) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44;
- (e) the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44; or
- (f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966; and

Appl. No. : 10/036,150
Filed : December 26, 2001

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that has the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

26. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 22 having at least 99% nucleic acid sequence identity to:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45;
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~the extracellular domain~~ amino acids 77-310 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, ~~wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310;~~
- (d) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44;
- (e) the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44; or
- (g) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966; and

wherein said isolated nucleic acid encodes a polypeptide that has the ability to induce chondrocyte redifferentiation.

27. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45;
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~the extracellular domain~~ amino acids 77-310 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, ~~wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310;~~
- (d) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44;
- (e) the full length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44; or
- (f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966.

28. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45.

Appl. No. : 10/036,150
Filed : December 26, 2001

29. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, lacking its associated signal peptide.

30. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding ~~the extracellular domain~~ amino acids 77-310 of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO:45, ~~wherein the extracellular domain is amino acids 77-310.~~

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44.

33. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:44.

34. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 27 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203966.

35-37 (Cancelled).

38. (Previously presented) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 22.

39. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 38, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

40. (Previously presented) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 38.

41. (Previously presented) The isolated host cell of Claim 40, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.